

**Tuesday, January 19, 2021**  
**Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...**

**"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth,  
where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,  
but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,  
where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."**  
*Matthew 6: 19-20*

I'm a little hesitant to say too much about this passage (even though I'm about to) since I am all for saving money and planning for retirement, and so forth. I'm sure you are as well. I'm not really sure if this is what Jesus is referring to anyway. I don't tend to think that Jesus disapproves of the idea of planning for the future. The Bible supports the idea of working and being fiscally responsible.

So, what does Jesus mean when He says, "Do not 'lay up' for yourselves treasures on earth"? Could it be that Jesus is telling us not to be obsessed with material things to the degree that they become our primary focus in life? Maybe when I "lay up" treasures on earth, I become so worldly-minded that I forget about eternal things, namely, my relationship with God.

How does a person go about "laying up" earthly treasures anyway? Maybe it has to do with developing the notion that there is never enough. Maybe it's when our only goal in life is to become rich. It's not a sin to be rich or even to make good and sound financial decisions in life that lead to financial well-being. Jesus just wants us to know that the purpose of life doesn't stop there. We can't forget about "moth and rust and thieves." Every worldly thing we acquire in this life is destructible. It can be taken away. A hurricane can do it. A tornado or earthquake can do it. But so can something as small as a microscopic virus, invisible to the naked eye.

But Jesus wants us to know that we can "lay up" for ourselves "treasures in heaven." What are these "treasures"? They are eternal life. They are joy and bliss and glory. No hurricane or tornado or virus can take these things away. They are INDESTRUCTIBLE because they are in God's domain. These belong to you and me because of Jesus' victory over sin and death. He died and rose for us so that we would have the hope of heaven.

Anything we do to keep our faith in Jesus strong and alive, such as continuing to study God's Word and allowing the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts and lives, is the way that we continue to "lay up" for ourselves treasures in heaven. Actually, God is the One who is "laying up" these treasures for us. When Jesus was about to leave earth to return to His Father, He told His disciples, "In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." *John 14: 2-3*

Nothing odd or unforeseen is happening when the things of this life wear out or are taken away. That's just the way it is. But the stuff that you and I are really looking forward to will never wear out or be taken away.

God's Peace!  
Pastor Jim